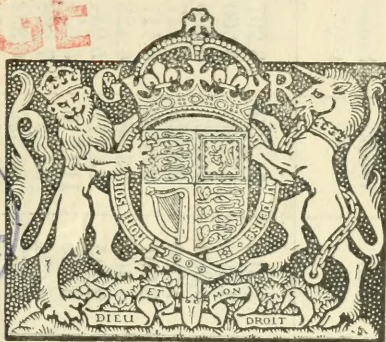
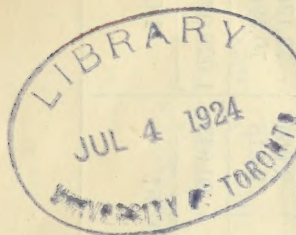


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British Museum

FOR OFFICIAL USE.

STORAGE



BRITISH MUSEUM.

Annual Report of the
General Progress of the Museum and of the
British Museum (Natural History)
for the year 1923:

WITH A

Return of the Number of Persons admitted to
the Museums, and a Statement of the
Principal Objects added to the
Collections.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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1924.

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NUMBER OF PERSONS ADMITTED TO VISIT THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND THE
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY).

A.—PERSONS ADMITTED TO VIEW the GENERAL COLLECTIONS in the British Museum in each Year from 1918 to 1923,
both Years inclusive.

	1918.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Week-day (Closed Sunday).	Week-day (Closed Sunday).	Week-day (Closed Sunday).	Week-day (Closed Sunday).	Week-day.	Sun- day.	Week- day.	Sun- day.	Week- day.	Sun- day.	Week- day.	Sun- day.
January -	—	50,346	64,829	—	75,921	4,194	75,030	3,316	91,639	3,997	91,639	3,997
February -	—	39,239	53,065	—	55,979	3,206	60,657	3,690	77,260	5,660	77,260	5,660
March -	Galleries closed	54,314	55,420	—	77,126	4,180	67,155	5,090	75,823	5,906	75,823	5,906
April -	—	74,698	86,391	—	70,917	3,946	93,221	7,560	99,225	8,517	99,225	8,517
May -	March	56,143	61,449	—	67,663	5,624	64,201	3,091	89,013	5,117	89,013	5,117
June -	1916-July	50,635	57,586	—	58,447	4,455	67,524	4,466	73,962	4,423	73,962	4,423
July -	1918.	55,990	84,649	—	71,705	4,494	84,272	9,445	84,171	5,944	84,171	5,944
August -	33,995	75,735	105,460	—	101,775	5,415	115,036	6,025	112,710	5,954	112,710	5,954
September -	28,408	63,930	80,173	—	72,227	5,349	76,449	5,694	85,096	7,968	85,096	7,968
October -	27,417	54,227	68,902	—	71,626	5,088	77,638	6,383	95,399	6,334	95,399	6,334
November -	24,590	57,732	58,618	4,818	61,001	3,257	65,738	2,665	73,136	3,975	73,136	3,975
December -	36,032	58,661	67,261	2,862	65,401	2,303	71,433	3,518	70,596	3,528	70,596	3,528
Total Number of Per- sons admitted to view the General Collections -	150,442	691,650	843,803	7,680	849,788	51,511	918,354	60,943	1,028,030	67,323	1,028,030	67,323
			851,483		901,299		979,297			1,095,353		

NUMBER OF VISITS OF STUDENTS TO PARTICULAR DEPARTMENTS.

—	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
To the Reading Room -	121,538	114,543	130,198	147,145	159,177	164,775	169,902
„ Newspaper Room -	9,108	10,890	10,407	10,880	10,034	10,941	13,647
„ Map Room -	170	188	260	317	344	354	457
„ Department of Manuscripts -	5,483	4,621	6,013	7,340	8,136	8,407	8,809
„ Department of Oriental Printed Books and MSS. -	691	826	888	1,926	2,579	3,216	3,844
„ Print Room -	1,254	777	2,588	*5,439	7,494	9,459	9,409
„ Egyptian and Assyrian Department -	—	—	2,300	2,500	2,800	3,000	3,500
„ Greek and Roman Department -	219	—	368	1,809	354	323	2,281
„ Galleries of Sculpture -	—	—	552	1,272	1,975	1,274	1,642
„ British and Mediaeval Department -	486	576	804	1,213	1,335	1,219	1,478
„ Department of Ceramics and Ethnography -	—	—	—	—	—	1,349	1,922
„ Coin and Medal Room -	—	—	2,424	2,533	2,374	2,700	2,765
Total -	138,949	132,421	156,802	182,374	196,602	207,017	219,656

* The Print Room was re-opened from 3rd August.

B.—PERSONS ADMITTED TO VIEW THE COLLECTIONS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM
(NATURAL HISTORY), CROMWELL ROAD,
in each Year from 1918 to 1923, inclusive.

	1918.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.
January	32,056	2,723	33,715	3,628	30,823	3,763	35,230	4,985	32,521	4,964	35,566	5,215
February	26,245	3,193	25,989	3,912	28,439	5,647	26,924	4,684	30,249	6,229	26,921	6,530
March	29,022	4,268	32,270	6,843	32,363	4,911	43,954	5,909	31,320	7,272	29,590	6,925
April	38,064	3,896	48,131	4,577	61,832	6,624	32,602	4,392	51,093	8,495	46,581	8,037
May	31,695	3,784	29,719	4,721	33,090	6,023	31,772	6,987	26,049	3,520	35,134	5,387
June	27,034	4,780	34,216	5,311	29,880	6,118	31,142	5,226	32,157	4,416	29,690	4,373
July	33,588	4,252	32,452	5,676	43,423	5,622	34,666	4,860	31,323	8,945	31,604	4,666
August	40,681	4,037	40,965	5,989	66,405	6,890	53,062	6,488	65,782	6,491	50,667	5,525
September	26,768	6,300	28,548	4,600	33,595	6,131	30,900	5,629	33,676	7,164	33,163	8,305
October	30,991	3,567	31,363	3,829	34,780	7,411	29,292	6,055	31,109	7,555	37,633	6,819
November	27,426	2,416	28,174	4,076	32,015	3,735	32,734	3,301	28,556	4,287	30,487	5,624
December	33,126	2,893	33,521	3,511	35,622	2,556	35,687	2,995	30,809	4,859	32,533	5,525
Total Number of Persons admitted to view the Natural History Collections (including students)	376,696	46,109	399,063	56,673	462,270	65,431	417,965	61,511	424,644	74,197	419,569	72,931
	422,805		455,736		527,701		479,476		498,841		492,500	

NUMBER OF VISITS TO PARTICULAR DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDY.

	1918.		1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.		1923.	
	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.	Week-day.	Sun-day.
Zoology (including Art Students)	-	-	5,553	7,459	8,973	10,459	11,386	11,083	11,386	11,083	11,386	11,083
Entomology	-	-	3,277	3,306	4,088	4,146	5,277	4,755	5,277	4,755	5,277	4,755
Geology	-	-	3,214	4,648	4,920	4,975	3,972	4,669	3,972	4,669	3,972	4,669
Mineralogy*	-	-	461	915	625	650	678	915	678	915	678	915
Botany	-	-	2,657	3,170	3,443	3,632	3,448	3,486	3,448	3,486	3,448	3,486
General Library	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,297	836	1,297	836	1,297	836
Total	-	-	15,162	19,498	22,049	23,862	26,058	25,744	26,058	25,744	26,058	25,744

* Study series directly accessible to the public, and so labelled as to render reference to the staff almost unnecessary, have been arranged in this Department.

GENERAL PROGRESS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM,
BLOOMSBURY.

The number of visitors to the Museum during 1923 exceeded all records, at least for the last 70 years, and passed the million for the first time. The total was 1,095,353, of whom 1,028,030 visited the Museum on week-days, and 67,323 on Sundays. This total is almost identical with that for 1850 (1,098,863), and has otherwise only been exceeded in the year of the Great Exhibition of 1851, when the quite abnormal figure of 2,527,216 was reached. The increase over 1922, which amounted to 116,056, was spread over all the months of the year except July, August and December. It may be attributed, at any rate in part, to the great interest in archæology excited by the discoveries of Lord Carnarvon in Egypt; but it may be hoped that it was in part due to an increasing realisation by the public of the interest and educational value of museums.

An increase was also recorded in the visits of students to special Departments, but this was more in the nature of a continuance of the steady process of recovery that has been going on since the end of the war. The total was 219,656, which is 12,639 more than in 1922, but still far below the figures for 1914 and previous years (299,385 in 1913 being the highest). The visits to the Reading Room amounted to 169,902, as against 164,775 in 1922; to the Newspaper Room, 13,647, as against 10,941; to the other Departments, 36,107, as against 31,291.

A proposal to institute a fee for admission to the Museum, originally put forward by the Geddes Committee on Public Expenditure, was resisted by the Trustees and was withdrawn in deference to strong public opposition.

The principal special exhibition held during the year was that in commemoration of the Tercentenary of the First Folio of Shakespeare. A very valuable collection of printed books, manuscripts, and prints connected with Shakespeare and his works was on view in the King's Library from April 23rd to the end of October; and a special guide-book was published in connection with it. Other exhibitions included a small display of printed books, manuscripts, and prints in connection with the bicentenary of Sir Christopher Wren in February which remained open until April; a selection of Japanese paintings in the summer; the third in the series of exhibitions of Japanese colour-prints, covering the period 1790-1806, in the autumn; an exhibition of Early Italian engravings, opened in July and still continuing; and a display of the principal objects obtained from the Museum expedition to Mesopotamia, which were shown in the Assyrian Basement in the summer, before being divided between Baghdad, Philadelphia, and the Museum.

The Copyright Office has been transferred to new quarters in King Edward the Seventh's Galleries, setting free additional storage accommodation for the Department of Manuscripts. The Franks Room has been opened at the Western end of the Ground Floor Gallery in King Edward the Seventh's Galleries. It contains the main part of the objects bequeathed by Sir A. Wollaston Franks, but not the very large number of objects presented by that great benefactor of the Museum in his lifetime.

The number of separate objects incorporated in the collections during 1923 was 390,808, as compared with 388,566 in 1922.

The figures for the several Departments are as follows :—

Printed Books :

Books and Pamphlets - - - -	27,876
Serials and Parts of Volumes - - -	114,580
Maps and Atlases - - - -	2,137
Music - - - -	11,670
Newspapers (single numbers) - - -	218,918
Miscellaneous - - - -	1,582
Manuscripts - - - -	632
Oriental Printed Books and MSS - - -	2,611
Prints and Drawings - - - -	2,538
Prints and Drawings (Oriental) - - -	233
Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities - - -	1,221
Greek and Roman Antiquities - - -	2,002
British and Mediæval Antiquities - - -	704
Ceramics and Ethnography - - - -	2,570
Coins and Medals - - - -	1,534
Total - - - -	<u>390,808</u>

The most important accessions to the collections during the year consisted of a selection of engravings and woodcuts of the early Italian, German, and Netherlandish schools, of great rarity and importance, being a selection from the duplicates of the Albertina Collection at Vienna; an early Chinese bronze bowl, probably of the Chou dynasty (1122–255 B.C.), purchased with funds mainly contributed by the National Art-Collections Fund and a few friends; a collection of South Russian antiquities, important as linking up Oriental with early Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon work; and a very finely printed Missal, produced at Rome in 1496 by Plannck, towards which contributions were received from Messrs. Quaritch, Mr. Dyson Perrins, Mr. Chester Beatty, and Mr. St. John Hornby.

In addition to the last-mentioned volume, the Department of Printed Books acquired a York Horæ of 1517 (with the assistance of Sir Robert Harmsworth); a fine copy of the first edition of Ascham's *Toxophilus*; the unique copy of the first edition of the translation of Ovid used by Shakespeare (presented by Mr. Christie Miller), with ten other volumes from the Britwell

Court sale; and a remarkable map of the world, showing the West Indies and part of the American coast, with references to Columbus's voyage, and dated 1506, a year earlier than the earliest printed map of America hitherto known.

The Department of Manuscripts acquired a further group of Greek papyri of the 4th century, relating to the Athanasian controversies; a remarkable Greek Psalter of the 11th century with a large number of marginal vignettes in the Byzantine style; collections of papers of James Vernon (Secretary of State, 1697–1701), Admiral Vernon, the first Earl and the first Marquess of Ripon, and the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman; and the autograph MS. of A. C. Swinburne's youthful poem, "the Temple of Janus," submitted unsuccessfully for the Newdigate Prize at Oxford.

The Department of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts acquired a portion of a Coptic version of the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, written in the fourth century; and seven MSS. of works on the history and religion of Turkestan and Afghanistan, in Turki, Pushtu, and Arabic, presented by Sir Aurel Stein. The Department also benefited by a munificent gift from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan of 57 volumes of photographic facsimiles of the Coptic MSS. from the Monastery of St. Michael in the Fayum (Egypt), now in Mr. Morgan's Library.

The Department of Prints and Drawings, in addition to the Albertina duplicates mentioned above, received a large collection of the work of the French etcher, Felix Bracquemond, as a gift from Mr. Campbell Dodgson, C.B.E. Other important accessions were a drawing by Dürer, presented by the National Art-Collections Fund, Mr. C. S. Gulbenkian, Sir Otto Beit, and other subscribers; a group of drawings by Dirk Vellert, bequeathed by Mr. F. W. Smith; a complete set of Turner's *Liber Studiorum*, in the original wrappers, presented by Mr. A. A. Allen through the National Art-Collections Fund; a drawing by Menzel, presented by Mr. Edmund Speyer and other friends; a rare engraving by Israhel van Meckenem; a landscape etching by Altdorfer; and five Flemish designs for roundels of stained glass, of the 16th century, from Cassiobury Park.

In the Oriental section of the Department the most important accessions were a fine Japanese print by Kiyotada, purchased with the assistance of a donation from Mr. R. N. Shaw, and a large screen, attributed to Tosa Mitsuyoshi.

The Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities benefited by a share of the Sumerian and Babylonian objects obtained by Mr. Woolley's excavations at Ur, and likewise acquired two large collections of Egyptian and Coptic antiquities, including a gold hawk with inlays of coloured paste, several bronze statuettes, and a set of the altar furniture of a Coptic church. From Lady Carnarvon (in accordance with the wishes of the late Earl) were received a wooden figure of the VIth Dynasty and a pre-dynastic alabaster bowl; and Sir Herbert Thompson and

Prof. F. Ll. Griffith presented a fine collection of demotic papyri. A group of objects, including a very early wooden figure of a youth, was presented by the National Art-Collections Fund. Another valuable acquisition was a libation-jar from northern Syria, with a silver body and a gold base in form of a bull, probably of the 8th or 7th century B.C.

In the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities the most remarkable acquisition was a bronze mirror of unique type and exceptional quality, dating from about 480 B.C. The Department also acquired a pair of gold bracelets and a gold ring of very fine workmanship, found in Sicily with coins of 413 B.C.; a bronze lamp-stand and mirror-case; a bronze pair of tablets containing the certificate of discharge of a sailor of the Roman flotilla in Egypt; and a large collection of figurines and other objects from Sparta, presented, with the consent of the Greek Government, by the British School at Athens.

The Department of British and Mediæval Antiquities, in addition to the collection of South Russian antiquities mentioned above, received a collection of Celtic vases from the excavations conducted by the Society of Antiquaries at Swarling, and a fine blue and white Roman glass bowl, excavated at Radnage, Bucks, and presented by Mr. W. Gordon Ross. It also obtained, by the will of the late Mr. Charles Borradaile, definite possession of the beautiful group of ivory carvings, enamels, and other mediæval objects which had been deposited on loan in the Museum for some years past.

The Department of Ceramics and Ethnography similarly acquired several fine specimens of porcelain by Mr. Borradaile's bequest, and the final instalment of the magnificent gift of early Worcester porcelain from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lloyd. A fine collection of Continental pottery and porcelain, chiefly from Meissen and other Central European works, was presented by Viscount Dillon; and a hundred pieces of English pottery were bequeathed by Mr. F. W. Smith. The early Chinese bowl, presented by the National Art-Collections Fund, has been mentioned above. Other Oriental acquisitions included a standing figure of Buddha, lacquered black and gilt, and a stone figure of the bull Nandi. As usual, the Department received a large number of gifts from various friends.

The Department of Coins and Medals made several purchases from the Rosenheim collection, largely with the assistance of Sir Otto Beit, Mr. H. Van den Bergh, and other friends of the Museum. An unique Sicilian coin of the 4th century B.C., by one of the best Syracusan artists, was also purchased. Among British coins the most interesting acquisition was an unique silver penny of Llewellyn of Wales (late 11th century). A fine group of rare Indian coins was secured from the Biddulph Collection.

The work of the expedition to Mesopotamia, supported jointly by the British Museum and the Museum of the University of

Pennsylvania, was resumed in the autumn, again under the leadership of Mr. C. L. Woolley. Excellent results were obtained both from Ur and from the neighbouring mound of Tell-Obeid.

The principal publications issued during the year were as follows :—

- Reproductions from Illuminated MSS., series I., new edition.
- A Book of Drawings formerly ascribed to Mantegna, reproduced from a volume presented by Lord Rosebery.
- Catalogue of Dutch and Flemish Drawings, vol. II.
- Facsimiles of Egyptian Hieratic Papyri, Part II.
- The Fall of Nineveh, from a newly discovered Babylonian Chronicle.
- Catalogue of Coins of the Roman Empire, vol. I.
- Guide to the Shakespeare Exhibition in celebration of the centenary of the First Folio of Shakespeare.
- Guide to the Exhibited MSS., parts II. and III., new editions.
- Guide to the Processes and Schools of Engraving, new edition.
- Guide to Engravings of the Early Italian School.
- Guide to Japanese Colour-Prints of the period 1790–1806.
- Guide to Babylonian and Assyrian Antiquities, new edition.
- Guide to Maya Sculptures from Central America.
- Guide to Anglo-Saxon and Foreign Teutonic Antiquities.
- Guide to English Pottery and Porcelain, new edition.
- Guide to Medals of the Renaissance.

Eight sets of postcards in monochrome (including six sets illustrating successive periods of English history, from the Anglo-Saxon period to the end of the 16th century), and ten sets in colour, have been published.

Frederic G. Kenyon,
Director and Principal Librarian.

British Museum,
31st March, 1924.

GENERAL PROGRESS AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

The total number of visitors to the Natural History Museum during 1923 was 492,500, a decrease of 6,341 as compared with 1922. The attendance on Sunday afternoons was 72,931 as against 74,197 in the previous year, and the number of persons present at the demonstrations by the Official Guide during the year was 14,902, an increase, in spite of the decrease in the general attendance, of 387 on the number, 14,515, for 1922. The average daily attendance for all open days was 1,357; for week days 1,349; and for Sunday afternoons 1,402.

Professor W. T. Gordon, F.R.S.E., delivered a course of Swiney lectures in November and December on "Gem Minerals and their uses in Art and Industry." The total attendance for the course was 1,556, or an average of 130 persons per lecture. The lectures were delivered at King's College, Strand, instead of at South Kensington, as on previous occasions.

Sir Sidney Harmer has for the second time been appointed a Vice-President of the Royal Society, and has also accepted a seat on the governing body of the Imperial College of Science and Technology as a representative of the University of London. He has acted as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee appointed by the Colonial Office for the management of the "Discovery" Expedition to investigate the marine fauna of the Antarctic Ocean with special reference to the whaling industry of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands. Dr. Herbert Smith has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Central Correlating Committee for the Protection of Nature which has been allowed office accommodation at the Museum. Dr. G. A. K. Marshall, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, represented the Museum at the Pan-Pacific Science Congress held in Australia during August; and Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S., was the Museum delegate at the annual meeting of the Museums Association held at Hull during July. Mr. P. R. Lowe, O.B.E., attended the International Congress for the Protection of Nature, held in Paris at the end of May and the beginning of June.

A memorial portrait of Alfred Russel Wallace and a plaque to the memory of Frederick du Cane Godman and Osbert Salvin have been placed on the main staircase of the Museum; and the fitting up of the interior of the new spirit building was almost completed during the year.

An official photographer has been appointed at the Museum whose services are available (on payment) for the general public as well as for official purposes.

Arrangements have been made with the British Broadcasting Company whereby from time to time members of the staff of the Museum give wireless lectures on the Museum generally

or upon subjects with which they are specially conversant. Several members of the scientific staff have been engaged, in conjunction with other bodies, in preparing exhibits for the British Empire Exhibition which is to be opened at Wembley in 1924.

Much valuable information continued to reach the Museum from various sources, chiefly through the Colonial Office, with reference to many subjects of interest, especially with regard to whaling and sealing in southern waters, and to a lesser extent in other parts of the world. Papers were received regarding the protection of the native fauna in many parts of the Empire, as well as reports as to the progress of the investigations into the possibilities of sponge cultivation in the Bahamas, made under the ægis of the Colonial Research Committee.

The Zoological Society of London, having decided that it was not prepared to continue to publish the "Zoological Record" at a considerable annual loss, the Museum authorities have taken a leading part in a movement to obtain financial support for the Society in order that this indispensable periodical shall not cease to be issued.

The several departments of the Museum continued to deal with economic problems referred to them. Advice was given regarding plagues of voles in war cemeteries in France, and in connection with work on schistosomiasis in Portugal, Mesopotamia, Sudan, Angola and Nyasaland. Many inquiries were dealt with relating to mites, among which the furniture mite, mites injuring grain, fruit trees and plants, and another proving a serious pest to poultry, were the most notable. Assistance was given in an investigation as to the importance of leeches as carriers of trypanosome diseases. A proposal to introduce non-poisonous rat-eating snakes into the Seychelles was deprecated and alternative methods of dealing with the pest were suggested. Information was also given to the Colonial Office in connection with a proposal to endeavour to establish a whaling industry based on the Seychelles. Considerable assistance continued to be given to the authorities concerned with the administration of the Plumage Act, especially in the identification of specimens of plumage submitted; and Mr. P. R. Lowe has continued to sit on the Advisory Committee appointed by the Home Secretary under the Wild Birds Protection Act.

In the case of a certain London firm engaged in the manufacture of cane basket-work, an insect was over-running their factory and was the cause of so many complaints from customers that their trade was threatened with ruin. The Museum was consulted and the insect was found to be *Clothilla picea* Motsch. (the Dark Book Louse). In another case in which the Museum was called in, *Osmia rufa*, a mason bee, and *Megachile centuncularis*, a leaf-cutting bee, had found the high pressure regulator vent pipes belonging to a provincial gas company such pleasant places for building their nests that the company was put to

considerable expense to prevent further trouble. *Trogoderma khapra*, a species of beetle, appears to have gained a very strong hold in the malting kilns of this country and maltsters would appear to be thoroughly alarmed at its depredations, judging by the number of enquiries received at the Museum. The grubs of various species of beetles belonging to the genus *Anthrenus* have given trouble in woollen goods in Egypt and brushes in India, while during the year they appeared in several houses widely separated in a town in the South of England, a most unusual outbreak in this country. For several years householders in certain districts have complained of plagues of earwigs in their houses, and during the past year the complaints have been very numerous. Districts which are being newly opened up for building purposes seem to be most affected. It has also been known for some time, through enquiries received at the Museum, that the house-cricket has been gradually taking up its abode in town refuse dumps and multiplying rapidly. Last year in one town where a dump was situated in the midst of a populous neighbourhood, the position became very alarming through the crickets migrating back to the houses, and the local authorities asked for a representative to go down and advise them as to the steps they should take to abate the nuisance. Mosaic disease of the raspberry and the potato appears to be spreading in Britain, and the Museum has been constantly consulted in connection with the investigations which are being made to find the organisms causing these diseases.

The total number of acquisitions in the several departments during the year, apart from books, was as follows :—

Department.	Purchases.	Donations, Exchanges, &c.	Total.
Zoology - -	3,854	25,156	29,010
Entomology - -	2,742	140,243	142,985
Geology - -	13,438	4,650	18,088
Minerals - -	826	912	1,738
Botany - -	5,754	6,303	12,057
	26,614	177,264	203,878

Among the more interesting presents received were :—

From Rear-Admiral H. Lynes, C.B., C.M.G., and Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe—800 mammals from Darfur, including the types of 18 new species and sub-species.

From Lt.-Col. C. L. W. Morley Knight, D.S.O., O.B.E.—a specimen of the La Plata Dolphin, *Pontoporia blainvillei*.

From Col. Stephenson R. Clarke C.B.—5,426 bird skins and 245 eggs from various parts of Africa, and 570 bird skins from Yunnan.

From Mr. George Binney—an egg of the Sanderling together with one of the parents in breeding plumage, a Spitsbergen Ptarmigan, and a young Sabine's Gull, all from Spitsbergen.

From Miss Winslow, Curator of Mollusca, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S.A.—a large and valuable series of North American land and freshwater Mollusca.

From Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf—178 microscopic preparations of Opalinid Infusorians, including 126 paratypes of species.

From the Rev. Hilderic Friend—about 200 tubes of British earthworms, comprising nearly all the known species and including a number of types.

From Mrs. W. C. Boyd—a collection of 445 butterflies, 12,500 moths and 800 Trichoptera, collected by her late husband.

From Mrs. B. W. Neave—her late husband's collection of about 5,800 specimens of British butterflies.

From Mrs. Theodore Wood—her late husband's collection of over 14,000 specimens of British Coleoptera and 2,000 specimens of Coleoptera and other insects from various localities.

From Dr. W. Rushton Parker—the sum of £100 to pay for the mounting on ironwork of the skeleton of the Chatham Elephant.

An important and unique selection of 145 mineral specimens from the collection of the late Mr. Spencer George Perceval.

From the Rev. F. W. Berry, Wenden Vicarage, Saffron Walden—a meteoric stone, weighing about $2\frac{3}{4}$ lb., which was seen to fall near Ashdon, Essex, on 9th March, 1923.

From Prof. E. Bouvier and the Principessa di Venosa—sumptuously printed books of great scientific interest.

The total number of presents received during the year 1923 was 2,478.

As a result of the death of the Hon. N. C. Rothschild in October, his important collection of Siphonoptera and other parasitic insects which he made over to the Trustees by deed of gift several years ago with the proviso that he should retain it during his lifetime, became the absolute property of the Trustees. Mr. Rothschild also bequeathed to the Museum the sum of £10,000, the income from which is to be applied to the provision of a special curator for his collection and to its general maintenance and increase. As at the time of Mr. Rothschild's death, the collection was undergoing a thorough revision and investigation, it has been arranged that it shall be left in the possession of Lord Rothschild for a limited period in order that this work may be completed before it is handed over to the Trustees.

The mounted specimens presented to the Museum during the year by the Trustees of the Rowland Ward Bequest comprise six mammals, all most valuable additions to the collection.

Arrangements were carried forward for the dispatch to East Africa of an Expedition to collect the extremely important dinosaurian remains in Tanganyika Territory partially

explored by the Germans before the War. The Expeditions to Australia and Peru mentioned in the Annual Report for 1922 were carried on into 1923; and further Expeditions for the benefit of the Museum collections, financed by the Godman Exploration Fund and the Percy Sladen Trust and by several individuals interested, have been set on foot in Argentina, Uruguay, Tonkin, South-west Africa, Morocco and Jamaica.

The principal purchases made during the year include:—A collection of 139 mammals from the Western Sahara: 168 birds collected on the island of Bourou; 171 mammals, 164 reptiles and batrachians, 98 fishes, 369 mollusca, 100 worms, 250 crustacea and 40 archnida from Marajó in Brazil; 340 fishes from Rio de Janeiro; 289 mammals collected in Tanganyika Territory; 455 bird-skins from Cameroon, including 10 types of new species and sub-species; 90 mammals from Central Asia collected by Professor Sushkin; several mounted mammals and birds; a collection of 1,153 specimens of Coleoptera, including a number of types; a collection of over 5,000 specimens, including 1,200 species, of Diptera from Ceylon and Assam; important dinosaurian fossils from the Red Deer district of Alberta; the type specimen of *Dinornis gravis* Owen; a collection of about 7,000 British carboniferous fossils made by the late Dr. Wheelton Hind, including about 1,270 figured specimens, nearly 500 of which are types; a collection of 14 sets of naturally associated bones of dinosauria from the upper cretaceous of Transsylvania made and named by Baron F. Nopcsa; a slice weighing 1,173 grammes of the meteoric iron which fell at Treysa, Hesse, Germany, on 3rd April, 1916, and portions of the Lancé, Vigarano and Chinautla meteorites.

Specimens were exchanged with and duplicate specimens presented to several institutions and persons.

The following new works were published during the year:—

Index Animalium, Sectio secunda, 1801–1850. Part II (AFF to ANUS) and Part III (ANUS to BAIL). By C. Davies Sherborn.

British Antarctic “Terra Nova” Expedition, 1910.—Zoology: Reports on Mysidacea, Antipatharia, and Anatomy of Gastropoda.—Botany: Report on Lichens. Handbook of the Larger British Fungi. By John Ramsbottom, O.B.E.

Report on the Cetacea stranded on the British coasts during 1921 and 1922. By Sir S. F. Harmer, K.B.E., Sc.D., V.P.R.S.

Catalogue of Meteorites, by G. T. Prior, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Guides to the Mollusca and to the Exhibition Galleries of Geology and Palæontology.

New editions were issued of the following Guide Books:—Guide to Fossil Mammals and Birds; Introduction to the Study of Rocks; Economic Series No. 4, Mosquitoes and their Relation to Disease.

A British Museum (Natural History) Almanac for 1924 was published in the autumn; and considerable progress was made with the production of picture postcards illustrating the contents of the Museum, and the following is a summary of the subjects dealt with. The cards are monochrome unless otherwise stated, and each set is accompanied by an explanatory leaflet. The number of cards on each subject is given in brackets:—

Dogs (20); Foreign Birds, coloured (10); British Butterflies, coloured (5); Exotic Butterflies, coloured (5); British Moths, coloured (5); Exotic Moths, coloured (5); Fossil Fishes (10); Fossil Reptiles (10); Frogs and Toads, coloured (5); Sponges (5); Stony Corals (5).

Sidney F. Harmer,
Director.

British Museum (Natural History),
1st April, 1924.

BRITISH MUSEUM, W.C.1.

The Museum is open free to the public on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but after 4 p.m. in January, February, November, December, and after 5 p.m. in March and October, some only of the galleries remain open, viz. :—

On MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and FRIDAYS.	<i>Ground Floor.</i> Exhibitions of Manuscripts and Printed Books.
	<i>Upper Floor.</i> Prehistoric Room; Coins and Medals; Roman-British, Anglo-Saxon, Oriental, Religious, and Ethnographical Collections; Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Egyptian Rooms; Assyrian, Babylonian, Phœnician, Carthaginian, and Coptic Rooms; Glass, China, and Mediæval Collections.
On TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and SATURDAYS.	<i>Ground Floor.</i> Egyptian, Assyrian, Greek and Roman Sculpture.
	<i>Upper Floor.</i> Prehistoric, Terra-cotta, Gold Ornament, Greek and Roman Life, Bronze, and Vase Rooms; First, Second, Third, and Fourth Egyptian Rooms; Prints and Drawings Exhibition Gallery.

On Sunday Afternoons.—The whole of the Exhibition Galleries are open free :—

From 2 to 4 P.M. in January, February, November,
December.

„ 2 to 5 P.M. in March and October.

„ 2 to 6 P.M. April to September, inclusive.

The Museum is closed on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Public Lecture Tours of the Collections are conducted by Official Guide Lecturers at 12 noon and 3 p.m. daily, except on Sundays. Private parties are also conducted, under conditions to be learned on application verbally in the Entrance Hall, or by letter to the Guide Lecturer, British Museum, W.C. 1.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY), S.W. 7.

The Museum is open free to the public on weekdays from 10 a.m. in January, February, October, November, December to 5 p.m., March to September, inclusive, to 6 p.m.

On Sundays visitors are admitted from 2.30 to 6 p.m. The Museum is closed on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Public Lecture Tours of the Collections are conducted by the Official Guide Lecturer at 12 noon and 3 p.m. daily, except on Sundays. The Guide Lecturer's services can also be obtained for private parties on application verbally in the Entrance Hall, or by letter to the Director, Natural History Museum, S.W. 7.

